

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EA/PHL:ASWIFT:PAW

APPROVED BY: EA: JOZURHELLEN, JR.

EA/PHL: BAFLECK

S/S-O: JHOGANSON

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R 052229Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACFLT

S E C R E T STATE 131775

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 6840 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DOD JCS
AND WHITE HOUSE 20 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T MANILA 6840

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR RP CH VN TW

SIBJ: DISPUTED TERRITORIES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

REF: STATE 116037

1. REFTTEL, WHICH OUTLINES OUR FIRM, UNFLINCHING POLICY ON
THE SPRATLYS, WAS SENT WITHOUT ANY LIMITATIONS ON ITS
DISTRIBUTION. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IT BE CAPTIONED
EXDIS AND THAT DISTRIBUTED COPIES BE RECALLED. IF ITS
CONTENTS WERE EVER TO COME TO ATTENTION OF FILIPINOS,
THEY WOULD CONFIRM THEIR WORST FEARS AND SUSPICIONS
CONCERNING VALUE OF U.S. TREATY COMMITMENTS.

SECRET

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2. I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT COPY BE FURNISHED CINCPAC
SO THAT OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS ARE AWARE OF POLICY GUIDANCE.

3. WHEN YOU REVIEW CONTINGENCIES, PLEASE EXAMINE SITUATION

IN WHICH PHILIPPINE NAVAL VESSEL, ON HIGH SEAS, ATTEMPTING TO REACH SPRATLEYS FOR PURPOSE EXTRACTING PHILIPPINE GARRISON COMES UNDER ATTACK OR THREAT OF ATTACK FROM VIETNAMESE NAVAL VESSELS AND SEEKS U.S. NAVAL AND AIR PROTECTION. I THINK I CAN IMAGINE WHAT THE "PREFERRED LEGAL POSITION" WOULD BE, BUT HAVE THE UNEASY FEELING THAT SUCH A CONTINGENCY IS FAR MORE PALPABLE THAN WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO ASSUME.

4. FINALLYGN I TRUST IT IS WELL REALIZED THAT THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR SECURITY TREATY COMMITMENTS AND THE TENURE OF U.S. BASES HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES. IF WE CAN EXTRAPOLATE THE "PREFERRED LEGAL POSITION" TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TERRITORY ON WHICH OUR BASES ARE BUILT, THEN WE MUST ASSUME THAT GOP WOULD BE QUITE SENSIBLE IN ABROGATING THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND DEMANDING OUR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BASES. THIS IS CLEARLY THE ISSUE WHICH THE GOP WANTS US TO FACE UNEQUIVOCALLY IN THE REASSEUSMENT REPORTEDLY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN WASHINGTON.
ULLIVAN

UNPUOTE. KISSINGER

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